

## Howard Hanson Dam Testing Following Nisqually Earthquake



Howard Hanson Dam on the Green River will undergo additional testing, part of follow-on investigations in response to the Feb. 28 Nisqually Earthquake.

Within hours, Seattle District had assembled a team of experts to evaluate the data and physically examine the dam. The Corps of Engineers' Seattle District employs a skilled team who continually evaluates Corps-owned dams to assure dam safety.

Preliminary evidence to date indicates that small movements have occurred. Fine cracks have formed along the dam. Even so, operations at the dam have been described as "business as usual." Others, in addition to Seattle District's team of experts, will help determine how the cracks developed and whether repairs are needed to ensure future safe operations.

Howard Hanson Dam contains a large number of monitoring instruments that measure various types of movement.

Only a minute number of the 76,000 dams in the United States have experienced a large earthquake event. Data from Howard Hanson Dam can be most valuable to engineers and geologists in predicting how other dams will behave under earthquake conditions.